

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1 – 7, 25 – 26, and 28 - 43.

Claims 44 - 46 are added. Support for new claim 44 can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed and at page 39, line 22 to page 42, line 21 of the specification as filed, including formulas 3a, 4a, and 5a. Claim 44 is dependent from allowable claim 1. Support for claims 45 and 46 can be found, for example, in claims 13 and 39.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 11 – 13 and 29 are amended to improve the readability of the claims.

Claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 25 – 28, and 30 – 43 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and to improve the readability of the claims.

Claim 8 is amended to be dependent from Claim 1. Claim 10 is amended to be dependent from new claim 44.

Any grounds which may have existed for the rejection of claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 25 – 28, and 30 – 43 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are believed overcome by the foregoing amendments in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The rejection of claims 10, 11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hagatani et al., JP 09-278718, is rendered moot as these claims now ultimately depend from allowable claim 1.

The rejection of claims 8, 9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Van Wagenen et al., US 6,211,244, is rendered moot as these claims now ultimately depend from allowable claim 1.

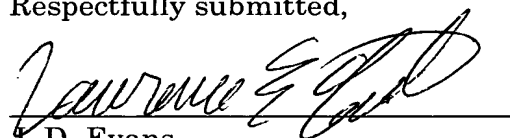
In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038788.49966).

February 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



J. D. Evans
Registration No. 26,269
Lawrence E. Carter
Registration No. 51,532

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844